



Iowa General Assembly

2008 Committee Briefings

Legislative Services Agency – Legal Services Division

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MEDICAID PROGRAM DRUG SELECTION STUDY COMMITTEE

Meeting Dates: [November 19, 2008](#)

Purpose. *This compilation of briefings on legislative interim committee meetings and other meetings and topics of interest to the Iowa General Assembly, written by the Legal Services Division staff of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency, describes committee activities or topics. The briefings were originally distributed in the Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing. Official minutes, reports, and other detailed information concerning the committee or topic addressed by a briefing can be obtained from the committee's Internet page listed above, from the Iowa General Assembly's Internet page at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>, or from the agency connected with the meeting or topic described.*

MEDICAID PROGRAM DRUG PRODUCT SELECTION STUDY COMMITTEE

November 19, 2008

Co-chairperson: Senator Becky Schmitz

Co-chairperson: Representative Andrew Wenthe

Background. The Legislative Council established the Medicaid Program Drug Product Selection Study Committee to convene public and private stakeholders to review current law for drug product selection under the Medicaid program. The study committee was allotted one meeting day.

Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS). Dr. Timothy Clifford, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, discussed the Medicaid prescription drug program including the preferred drug list (PDL), prior authorization, rebates, cost drivers and cost controllers, the various categories of drugs, and specifically the most recent review of mental health drugs to be included on the PDL.

Iowa Psychiatric Society. Dr. Kevin Took, child and adolescent psychiatrist, discussed the need for practicing psychiatrists who serve Medicaid recipients to have input in the development of the PDL and in drug utilization review.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Iowa (NAMI-Iowa). Ms. Margaret Stout, Executive Director, NAMI-Iowa, discussed the need for oversight regarding the PDL, the potential for cost shifting to other disciplines if individuals are not provided appropriate prescription drug therapies, and the need for simple appeals and exception to policy processes.

Iowa Pharmacy Association. Mr. Thomas Temple, Executive Vice President and CEO, Iowa Pharmacy Association, discussed the drug product selection law in Iowa in general and concerns with the Medicaid PDL including placing brand name drugs on the PDL when a generic equivalent is available, transparency in the process, the consolidation of the responsibilities for the PDL under one vendor, and the need to expand medication therapy management.

Iowa Medical Society (IMS). Ms. Karla Fultz McHenry, Vice President Public of Policy and Advocacy, Iowa Medical Society, discussed concerns regarding the PDL from an historical perspective, current issues including wait times for prior authorizations and the placement of mental health drugs on the PDL, and guiding principles for a PDL including that cost containment cannot be the driving factor in determining the drugs placed on the PDL. Ms. McHenry recommended the need for greater transparency in the process, adequate education of stakeholders, and better communication.

Diabetes Drugs Discussion. Mr. Russ Sobotta, R.Ph. and Senior Manager for State Government Affairs, Sanofi-Aventis, discussed the impact on individuals with diabetes of restricting the choice of insulin under the Medicaid program. He noted that the restrictions on long-acting insulins were recently lifted and urged an holistic approach to disease management.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Mr. Khalil Nuri, PhRMA, provided a list of recommendations to consider relative to the Medicaid drug program, and suggested that a state-specific study may provide responses to issues involved in maintaining the program in order to focus on patient health and appropriate

access to medications.

Iowa Nurses Association. Ms. Linda Goeldner, CHE, CAE, spoke on behalf of psychiatric nurses and advanced practitioners regarding the need for flexibility in the choice of medications for Medicaid recipients and the potential for increased costs due to hospital stays or destabilization of patients when changes in medication occur due to restrictions in the Medicaid drug program.

Iowa Retail Federation. Ms. Nicole Valentine, Regional Director, State Government Affairs, National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), discussed the drug product selection process from the perspective of chain drug stores that are members of the NACDS in Iowa including Walgreens, Hy-Vee, Dahl's, Medicine Shoppe, and Target. The NACDS also provided materials regarding generic substitution of epilepsy and immunosuppressant medications.

Final Report. The Study Committee directed that information provided during the meeting and responses to data requests be compiled in a final report to be presented to the Human Resources Standing Committees and the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee.

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